

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks. Prior to entry of this response, Claims 40-59 were pending in the application, of which Claims 40 and 50 are independent. In the Final Office Action dated June 20, 2007, Claims 40-59 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Following this response, Claims 40-59 remain in this application. Applicants hereby address the Examiner's rejections in turn.

I. Rejection of the Claims Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

In the Final Office Action dated June 20, 2007, the Examiner rejected Claims 40 and 45-48 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,361,361 ("*Hickman*") in view of what the Examiner considers to be Applicants Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) in view of Managing On-line Help ("*Irwin*"). Furthermore, the Examiner rejected Claims 50 and 55-58 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Hickman* in view of what the Examiner considers to be AAPA in view of *Irwin* in view of PDF Reference Manual Version 1.2 ("*PDF Reference Manual*"). Claims 40 and 50 have been amended, and Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments overcome these rejections and add no new matter.

Amended Claim 40 is patentably distinguishable over the cited art for at least the reason that it recites, for example, "each vendor folder containing help contents of respective help topics provided by a corresponding vendor, the help contents usable by a unified taxonomy structure of help categories and help topics." Amended Claim 50 includes a similar recitation.

In contrast, *Hickman* at least does not teach or suggest the aforementioned recitation. For example, *Hickman* merely discloses a hierarchical integrated help utility that integrates help information across multiple independent applications. (See col. 1, lines 52-53.) *Hickman* alleges that it improves conventional help utility functionality by providing help file directory 313 within application 310, help file directory 323 within application 320, and the integrated help utility 340. (See col. 4, lines 30-34.) While *Hickman* states that it integrates help information across multiple independent applications, nowhere in *Hickman* does it disclose help contents usable by a unified taxonomy structure of help categories and help topics. Consequently, *Hickman* is completely silent regarding a unified taxonomy structure, much less help contents usable by a unified taxonomy structure.

Furthermore, *Irwin* does not overcome *Hickman*'s deficiencies. *Irwin* merely discloses managing on-line help in a networked multi-platform environment. Like *Hickman*, *Irwin* at least does not teach or suggest help contents usable by a unified taxonomy structure of help categories and help topics.

Moreover, what the Examiner considers to be AAPA does not overcome *Hickman*'s and *Irwin*'s deficiencies. In the Final Office Action, the Examiner states that what the Examiner considers AAPA discloses "specifically, help information regarding a software program of a hardware device may be organized by the vendor of that product into different help topics that a user can access and view on the computer." (See Final Office Action, page 9, lines 1-4.) While the aforementioned statement by the Examiner may state that help information may be organized by a product vendor of that into different help topics, nowhere does it suggest or disclose help contents usable by a

unified taxonomy structure of help categories and help topics. Consequently, like *Hickman* and *Irwin*, what the Examiner considers to be AAPA at least does not teach or suggest help contents usable by a unified taxonomy structure of help categories and help topics.

Furthermore, *PDF Reference Manual* does not overcome *Hickman's*, *Irwin's*, and what the Examiner considers AAPA's deficiencies. *PDF Reference Manual* merely discloses portable document format files structures. Like *Hickman*, *Irwin*, and what the Examiner considers to be AAPA, *PDF Reference Manual* at least does not teach or suggest help contents usable by a unified taxonomy structure of help categories and help topics.

Combining *Hickman* with what the Examiner considers to be AAPA, *PDF Reference Manual*, and *Irwin* would not have led to the claimed invention because *Hickman*, what the Examiner considers to be AAPA, *PDF Reference Manual*, and *Irwin*, either individually or in combination, at least do not disclose or suggest "each vendor folder containing help contents of respective help topics provided by a corresponding vendor, the help contents usable by a unified taxonomy structure of help categories and help topics," as recited by amended Claim 40. Amended Claim 50 includes a similar recitation. Accordingly, independent Claims 40 and 50 each patentably distinguishes the present invention over the cited art, and Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of these rejections of Claims 40 and 50.

Dependent Claims 41-49 and 51-59 are also allowable at least for the reasons described above regarding independent Claims 40 and 50, and by virtue of their respective dependencies upon independent Claims 40 and 50. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection of dependent Claims 41-49 and 51-59.

II. Conclusion

Applicants respectfully request that this Amendment After Final be entered by the Examiner, placing the claims in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully submit that the proposed amendments of the claims do not raise new issues or necessitate the undertaking of any additional search of the art by the Examiner, since all of the elements and their relationships claimed were either earlier claimed or inherent in the claims as examined. Therefore, this Amendment should allow for immediate action by the Examiner.

Finally, Applicants respectfully submit that the entry of the Amendment would place the application in better form for appeal, should the Examiner dispute the patentability of the pending claims.

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the claimed invention, as amended, is neither anticipated nor rendered obvious in view of the prior art references cited against this application. Applicants therefore request the entry of this Amendment, the Examiner's reconsideration and reexamination of the application, and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims, as amended, are patentable over the cited references. The preceding arguments are based only on the arguments in the Official Action, and therefore do not address patentable aspects of the invention that were not addressed by the Examiner in the Official Action. The claims may include other elements that are not shown, taught, or suggested by the cited art. Accordingly, the preceding argument in favor of patentability is advanced without prejudice to other bases of patentability. Furthermore, the Final Office Action contains a number of statements reflecting characterizations of the related art and the claims. Regardless of whether any such statement is identified herein, Applicants decline to automatically subscribe to any statement or characterization in the Final Office Action.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this amendment and charge any additional required fees to our Deposit Account No. 13-2725.

Respectfully submitted,
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